CLAIMS

1. A method of controlling congestion on a network having a plurality of switching points, comprising the steps of:

sending, by a first switching point, a message to a second switching point, indicating that traffic between a source packet switch and a destination packet switch is congested;

reducing, by said second switching point, the data rate at which packets destined for said destination packet switch are output from said second switching point.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein each switching point manages a plurality of service level agreements (SLA) such that data packets corresponding to each service level agreement (SLA) are transmitted from each switching point at at least a minimum data rate corresponding to said respective SLA, and further including:

transmitting by said second switching point data packets for an SLA at a data rate greater than said minimum data rate resulting in congestion at said first switching point;

wherein said step of reducing includes, reducing said data rate for said SLA but not adjusting the data rate for other SLAs managed by said second switching point.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of reducing said data rate includes reducing said data rate to said minimum data rate.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of reducing said data rate includes reducing said data rate to zero.